

the Southwest General Health System and Foundation, and The Optimist Club.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing all of those who make the City of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, the wonderful place it is to live and work and a city known for its rich, community-driven history.

HONORING MICHAEL REESE KELLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Reese Kelly of Blue Springs, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Reese Kelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER FRANK W. WILKES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize and thank one of my constituents, Frank W. Wilkes of Clinton, Maryland, for his outstanding service to the United States Congress, the Members who serve here, and the entire Capitol Hill community over the last two decades.

I also want to thank and acknowledge his family—his beautiful wife of 30 years, Paulette, and his sons, Trevor and his wife Delania, and Frank W. Wilkes III.

After 20 years of service with the Capitol Police, Officer Wilkes retired recently and will move into a new phase in his life.

For most of his last years of service, Officer Wilkes served as the officer on duty at the Senate Day Care Center, a position replete with responsibility and challenge. However, what his resume does not capture is the fact that the children there adore their friend, "Officer Frank."

In turn, Frank has been a wonderful presence at the day care center, watching and ensuring that the children go about their day safely and securely. It's my understanding that he plans to come back and read to them on a monthly basis as part of his "retirement" plans.

Let me say, too, that I have heard from more than one resident in the neighborhood that Officer Wilkes will be sorely missed; that he was quite popular with the surrounding

residents who trusted his judgment, respected his extraordinary common sense, and enjoyed his presence.

During his 20 years with the Capitol Police, Officer Wilkes served a key role in protecting Members of Congress, the President, Vice President, and visiting dignitaries.

In fact, Frank was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for apprehending and subduing a suspect who was attempting to physically assault then-Vice President Dan Quayle.

Prior to joining the Capitol Police force, Officer Wilkes served for 9 years in the United States Air Force. Among other things, he was an administrative executive support manager, and served as liaison between the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the White House, the State Department, and the CIA to ensure the proper exchange of critical, time-urgent information.

Madam Speaker, those of us who enjoy the protection of the Capitol Police force—Members of Congress, government officials, and the general public who visit the Capitol complex—take their presence and their professionalism for granted far too often.

The truth is, we owe our Capitol Police officers—people like Frank Wilkes—a real debt of gratitude for doing such an important, oftentimes complicated job with great dedication and commitment.

Thus, today, I again want to thank Frank for his two decades of service to the Capitol Police and our Nation, and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PRAISING TONYA KINLOW FOR WORKING TO IMPROVE DC SCHOOLS AS OMBUDSMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the work Tonya Kinlow has undertaken as the District's Ombudsman for Schools. That office provides a venue for parents, teachers, and students to voice their frustrations and dissatisfaction with the low-performing school system, and to have investigations launched in order to address those complaints. Kinlow has an impressive record—she, of course, once worked for my office—and she demonstrates a fierce commitment to service that should serve her well in her new post.

She served on the DC and State boards of education and was a board member of the education advocacy group, DC Voice. She was most recently the vice president of government relations for the DC Hospital Association. And as a part of the Rangel family, she executed her tasks superbly well and with an unmatched attention to detail. I am proud of her accomplishments and the many great things she is poised to do.

DAY OF SPANISH LANGUAGE JOURNALISM, IN HONOR OF JUSTO DE LARA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sentiment that March 26, 2008, should be designated as "Spanish Language Journalism Day in honor of Justo de Lara."

Jose de Armas y Cardenas, who wrote under the pseudonym of Justo de Lara, was a distinguished journalist, poet, and author. As a result of his contributions, the Cuban department store chain El Encanto named their journalism award, the most prestigious award of its kind in Cuba, the Justo de Lara Prize for Spanish Journalistic Excellence. This award was given out from 1934 until Fidel Castro's communist takeover in 1959.

His fluency in Spanish, English, Italian, and French and his love for reading and literature fueled his own desire to write. At an early age, he was a prolific author and journalist. He worked during the Spanish-American War as a special envoy for the Sun in 1898, serving as an official translator between Cuban General Calixto Garcia and Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Jose de Armas y Cardenas was also the only person of Spanish-speaking origin named by the Government of England in 1916 to be a member of the commission responsible for the tricentennial celebration of William Shakespeare.

Due to his legacy and example to countless generations, March 26, 2008, should be designated as "Spanish Language Journalism Day in honor of Justo de Lara," in recognition of the excellence in journalism that Jose de Armas y Cardenas achieved during his life and his love of literature, of the excellence in journalism that the award in his honor continued to recognize after his death, and of the hope for such continued excellence today and in the future.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mayor Alan Autry upon being named the Armenian National Committee's "Man of the Year." Mayor Autry will be honored at a luncheon on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the Armenian Community Center in Fresno, CA.

Alan Autry was born in Shreveport, LA. As a child, his family moved to the Central San Joaquin Valley and settled in the small farming community of Riverdale, CA. He attended Riverdale High School and received an athletic scholarship to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, where he received a bachelor's degree in physical education. Upon graduating from UOP, Mayor Autry played in the National Football League for the Green Bay Packers. He spent 3 years in the NFL before retiring.

After leaving the NFL, Mayor Autry turned to a career in film and television. For 22 years